

## PSC 122: Survey of Comparative Politics

Fall 2008 • Detchon Hall 209  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:20 – 11:10am

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Office: Baxter Hall #123  
Office Hours: Monday, 4-6pm or by appointment (for a nominal fee)

This class will provide a general introduction to the study of political systems worldwide. The approach and many of the readings will be theoretical; but we will draw from real-world examples as illustrations of these theoretical concepts. Thus, a *basic* understanding of world history, current events and even the American political system will be assumed. If you don't already watch the news or read the newspaper, start doing so now. I highly recommend the *New York Times* (available on-line), the *Jim Lehrer New Hour* (weekdays at 5pm on WFYI-TV: Channel 20, Indianapolis), *The Economist* magazine, or, on the radio (WNDY-FM 91.3, Crawfordsville), *The BBC News Hour* (weekdays, 9-10am) and *All Things Considered* (weekdays, 4-6:30pm).

Exams will be graded on a 4-point scale (A=4.0; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; etc.). All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade. Final grades will be calculated with reference to the following:

Mid-term #1 (in class, Wednesday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> ):	25%
Mid-term #2 (in class, Friday, November 21 <sup>st</sup> ):	25%
Final Exam (Tuesday, December 16 at 9am):	25%
Homework, quizzes, participation and extra credit:	25%

Readings for the course will be found in *Patterns of Democracy* (by Arend Lijphart; available at the campus bookstore). There will also be a significant number of readings posted on Moodle. In addition to these, there will also be a small number of handouts and a movie (to be shown in class). Unless otherwise noted, all reading and assignments should be completed by the dates specified in the schedule of classes.

Students with disabilities or special needs are encouraged to contact myself and Ms. Julia Rosenberg (Armory 101B; 361-6024; [rosenbej@wabash.edu](mailto:rosenbej@wabash.edu)), director of Academic Support Services. Provided we are given enough notice, we will work together to make all reasonable accommodations. To this end, please take note of exam and assignment due dates listed on this syllabus and contact me with any concerns as soon as possible. You should also note that Academic Support Services provides peer tutoring, writing and study skills assistance (contact 361-6258). All communication related to such matters will remain confidential.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible for all assignments given in class, regardless of whether they appear in the syllabus.

## Schedule of Classes

### **Week 0 (August 29, 2008): General Introduction**

Sub-optimal outcomes of incrementally rational decisions, or:  
How seemingly sensible behavior can result in a crazy mess.

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### **Week 1 (September 1, 3 & 5): Definitions.**

What is a state? What is politics? And what is democracy?

Readings: Shively: from *Power & Choice* (pp. 40-47).  
Charles Tilly: "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" (pp. 169-175.1)  
Glance & Huberman: "The Dynamics of Social Dilemmas" (from *Scientific American*)  
"Evo-Economics" (from *The Economist*, December 25, 1993)  
Wilson: "The Bureaucracy" (pp. 327-339) & "The Bureaucracy Problem (407-410.1)  
Publius: Federalist #10 and #51 (*Classic Readings in Am. Politics*, pp. 29-34; 48-51)

Assignment: For September 5<sup>th</sup>, type up and bring in a couple paragraphs that describe a collective action problem not already discussed in class or in the readings.

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### **Week 2: Snapshots of democracy in action.**

Representative government in the US, Britain, Germany and Israel.

Readings: Patrick O'Neil: *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (pp. 156-171)  
The Constitution of the United States of America  
Lijphart on the British (or 'Westminster') form of government: *Patterns* (pp. 9-21.1)  
The German Political System: Mahler (pp. 234-255)  
Shugart & Carey: "The Weimar Republic" (from *Presidents and Assemblies*, pp. 68-71)  
Proportional Representation in Israel: from Shively: *Power and Choice* (pp. 220-1)

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### **Week 3: Majority or Consensus?**

An overview majoritarian and consociational democracy.

- Hague & Harrop: "The first world: majoritarian and consociational democracies" (49-53)
  - Lijphart: *Patterns* (pp. 1-4; 9-21.1 (review); 31-41)
  - Get started on next week's reading...
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### **Week 4: Majoritarian and Consociational Democracy (Part 2)**

Party systems:	<i>Patterns</i> (pp. 62-69.1)
Cabinets & coalitions:	<i>Patterns</i> (pp. 90-96.2)
Executive/legislative relations:	<i>Patterns</i> (pp. 116-118.2)
	Linz: "The Perils of Presidentialism"
	Horowitz: "Comparing Democratic Systems"
	(a response to Linz)
	Linz: "The Virtues of Parliamentarism" (Linz' rejoinder)

Electoral Systems:	<i>Patterns</i> (pp. 143-154.1; 165.1) Popkin: "The Reasoning Voter" (pp. 511-518)
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### **Week 5: Majoritarian and Consociational Democracy (Part 3)**

Federalism & decentralization:	<i>Patterns</i> (pp. 185-189; 195-197) Review Federalist #10
Legislatures:	<i>Patterns</i> (pp. 200-209.1)
Constitutions and the judiciary:	<i>Patterns</i> (pp. 216-225.2) Bickel: "Justification of Judicial Review"

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### **Week 6: Non-democratic forms of Government.**

Illiberal Democracy and Authoritarian Regimes.

- Mayer: "Autocracies" and "Bureaucratic Authoritarianism" (from *Comparative Politics*, pp. 117-121.1)
  - Hilton Root: "Tying the King's Hands"
  - Fareed Zakaria: "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy" (*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1997)
  - Richard Pipes: "Flight From Freedom: What Russians [...] Want" (*Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2004)
  - Masha Lipman: "Constrained or Irrelevant: The Media in Putin's Russia" (*Current History*, Oct. 2005)
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### **Week 7: Review, First mid-term and Break.**

- Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: Review and finish-up material from first half of course.
  - **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: FIRST MID-TERM EXAM (in-class)**
  - Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>: No class. Take a break. Relax.
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### **Week 8: Doing Comparative Politics.**

Research questions and explaining political phenomena.

- Watch Michael Moore's *Bowling for Columbine* in class (probably October 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Alexis de Tocqueville: *Democracy in America* (Selection)
  - "Lexington: Bill Cosby and Black America" (from *The Economist*, July 10, 2004)
  - Alesina, Glaeser & Sacerdote: "Why Doesn't the US Have a European-Style Welfare State?"
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### **Week 9: Methods of Comparative Politics Research.**

Theory, Explanation and the Scientific Method.

- Carlson & Hyde: "Using the Scientific Method in Political Science" (pp. 18-38)
  - "Game Theory" (*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/game-theory>)
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### Week 10: The wealth and poverty of nations.

- Harrison: *The Pan-American Dream* (Chapter 1, skim pp. 27-41)
  - Jared Diamond: "World Conquerors" (from *The Third Chimpanzee*, pp. 217-221; 235-248)
  - Mancur Olson: "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development" (*APSR*, September 1993)
  - Lake & Baum: "The Invisible Hand of Democracy" (pp. 415-419; 427-429)
  - Review Hilton Root's "Tying the Kings Hands" (from Week 6).
  - North & Weingast: "Constitutions & Commitment" (pp. 803-817) **(Optional)**
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### Week 11: Explaining the emergence of democracy and authoritarianism.

- Robert Barro: "Democracy: A Recipe for Growth?" (*The Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 1, 1994)
  - Fareed Zakaria: "A Brief History of Human Liberty" (from O'neil & Rogowski, *Essential Readings*)
  - Brian Downing: *The Military Revolution* (Selections. Skim pp. 56-83)
  - Moore: *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Selections. Skim: 413-420)
  - Amartya Sen: "Democracy as a Universal Value" **(Optional)**
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### Week 12: Will the nation-state survive?

- Lawson & Rothchild: "Sovereignty Reconsidered" (*Current History*, May 2005)
- Huntington: "Clash of Civilizations" (*Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993)
- Rapley: "The New Middle Ages" (*Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006)
- Globalization and the Nation-State (Wriston vs. Slaughter) (*21 Debated Issues*, pp. 26-48)
- "Is Government Disappearing?" (from *The Economist*, September 27, 2001)
- Herbst: "Responding to State Failure in Africa" (*International Security*, Winter 1996/97) **(Optional)**

- **Friday, November 21st: SECOND MID-TERM EXAM (in-class)**
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### Week 13: Constitution design for deeply-divided societies.

Power-Sharing or Power-Dividing?

- Lijphart: "The Power-Sharing Approach"
  - Roeder & Rothchild: *Sustainable Peace* (pp. 36-67).
  - Horowitz: "Ethnic Conflict Management for Policymakers"
  - Lijphart: *Democracy in Plural Societies* (pp. 1-52) **(Optional)**
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### Week 14: Explaining African Underdevelopment.

The three 'pairs' of articles are taken from *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on African Issues*.

- Collier & Gunning: "Why has Africa Grown Slowly?" (O'neil & Rogowski, *Essential Readings*)
  - Lovejoy vs. Thornton : "Did the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Underdevelop Africa?"
  - Diamond vs. Jarosz: "Is European Subjugation of Africans Ultimately Explained by Differences in Land, Plant and Animal Resources?"
  - Colchester vs. Grier: "Did Colonialism Distort Contemporary African Development?"
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## Class Bibliography

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